For K.N. - To discuss, please in the light of your own Teaching — 21/9/59

NOTES AND EXCERPTS: on INITIATION

The subject of Initiation is one that has a great fascination for thinkers of all schools of thought, and even those who remain skeptical and critical would like to believe that this ultimate attainment were possible. To those who do not believe that such a goal is possible this book is offered for what it may be worth as a formulation of an interesting hypothesis. To those who anticipate such a consummation of all their endeavors, this book is tendered in the hope that it may prove a help.

Among occidental thinkers at this time there is a wide diversity of view upon this momentous subject. There are those who think that it is not of sufficient immediate importance to engross their attention, and that if the average man adheres to the path of duty and high-minded attention to the business in hand, he will duly arrive at his destination. That is undoubtedly true, yet as capacity for increased service, and the development of powers to be used in helping the race are the reward of the man who is willing to make the increased effort and to pay the price which initiation demands, perhaps this book may spur some on to attainment, who might otherwise have drifted slowly towards their goal. They will then become givers and not the recipients of help.

There are those again who consider that the teaching given out in various book hitherto concerning initiation, is erroneous. Initiation has been made out to be fairly easy of attainment, and to call for no such rectitude of character as might have been anticipated. Actually... initiation is profoundly difficult of attainment, and calls for a strenuous discipline of the lower nature, and a life ~~of self-effacing~~ and self-abnegating devotion. At the same time it must be remembered that the earlier teaching is right in essence, though belittled in interpretation.

Again there are some who are interested, yet who feel the possibilities involved are too far advanced for them, and that they need not occupy themselves with them at this stage of their evolution. This book seeks to make it apparent that here and now the average man may begin to build the character and to lay those foundations of knowledge which are necessary before even the Path of Discipleship can be trodden. Due preparation may now be made and men and women everywhere may, if they choose, fit themselves for the condition of discipleship and tread the probationary path. Hundreds in the East and West are pressing onwards toward this goal and in the unity of the one ideal, in their common aspiration and endeavor, they will meet before the one Portal. They will then recognize themselves as brothers, severed by tongue and apparent diversity of belief, but fundamentally holding to the same one truth and serving the same God..

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In these days of the shattering of the old form and the building of the new, adaptability is needed. We must avert the danger of crystallisation through pliability and expansion. "The old order changeth" but primarily it is a change of dimension and of aspect and not of material or of foundation. The fundamentals have always been true. To each generation is given the part of conserving the essential features of the old and beloved form, but also of wisely expanding and enriching it. Each cycle must add the gain of further research and scientific endeavor, and subtract that which is worn out and of no value. Each age must build in the product and triumphs of its period, and abstract the accretions of the past that would dim and blur the outline. Above all, to each generation is given the joy of demonstrating the strength of the old foundations, and the opportunity to build upon these foundations a structure that will meet the needs of the inner evolving life.

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The development of the human being is but the passing from one state of consciousness to another. It is a succession of expansions, a growth of that faculty of <u>awareness</u> that constitutes the predominant characteristic of the indwelling Thinker. It is the progressing from consciousness polarised in the personality, lower self, or body, to that polarised in the higher self, ego, or soul, thence to a polarisation in the Monad or Spirit, till the consciousness eventually is Divine. As the human being develops, the faculty of awareness extends first of all beyond the circumscribing walls that confine it within the lower kingdoms of nature (the mineral, vegetable and animal) to the three worlds of the evolving personality, to the planet whereon he plays his part, to the system wherein that planet revolves, until it finally escapes from the solar system itself and becomes universal.